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H 4217 (WR-RH)
September 9, 1987

W. Lowell White
Acting Director, Western Region
National Park Service
450 Golden Gate Avenue
P.O. Box 36063
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mr. White:

Thank you for your letter of June 15, 1987 regarding the historical resources of Mineral King. We know you have a busy schedule and are most appreciative of any time you devote to the Mineral King Preservation Society (MKPS).

We are pleased to announce that our organization is currently in excess of 200 members and growing at a rate of seven to ten new members weekly. We are gratified by this response, and the diversity, of the membership.

The Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to outline the objectives and future plans of the MKPS. The immediate goal of our research is to prepare a National Register application for the Mineral King Historic District. As you are well aware, this is a complex undertaking and will only be accomplished through a cooperative effort. We want to assure you that throughout this process we have been, and will be, working with Dr. Bill Tweed and staff from Ash Mountain. He has agreed to advise throughout, as well as edit and review our final draft.

Dr. Tweed and the MKPS are in agreement that this work is urgently needed. For a number of reasons, Mineral King cannot be a high priority in the budget of the NPS. It is, at this time, that the MKPS would like to offer our organization to assist the NPS in this endeavor. In order to accomplish the historical research, we would like to request a moratorium on the removal of any existing structures within the proposed district. This moratorium would be in effect at least until we have received a determination of eligibility.

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It is our intention to meet with SHPO by October, 1987 to discuss the "preliminary review of historic districts" as per the guidelines from the State Historic Preservation Officer. We would then proceed with the application document during the winter of 1987-88. It is probable that we would receive a determination some time in 1988.

The MKPS is presently conducting archival and field research to determine the exact boundaries of the Mineral King Historic District. A map is being prepared with site locations of both the existing structures and archaeological sites. We will forward a copy of this map and a preliminary site inventory upon completion.

The research to date has yielded an impressive array of primary documents containing unrecorded facts about the history of Mineral King. One item which may be of interest is the site of Camp Dorst, later called Camp Troop, which functioned as the first headquarters of Sequoia National Park. Structural remains and artifacts have been located which may be associated with this site near Aspen Flat, which is at the southeast end of the Mineral King Valley. Enclosed is a copy of a photo which was used in the MKPS display in the Mineral King Ranger Station. We believe that, perhaps, the gentleman in uniform is Captain Dorst. Any help that you or your staff could offer on a positive identification would be appreciated.

The MKPS application will address five historical themes: (1) Mining; (2) Transportation; (3) National Park Administration; (4) Cabins; and (5) Archaeology (prehistoric and historic sites). We will forward more specific data as it becomes available.

The MKPS Board is looking forward to working with your office and welcomes any expertise that you may provide. If you have any questions please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Ora Kay Peterson, at (209)734-6150.

Respectfully,

MKPS Board of Directors

Jim Barton
President

Bill Martin
Secretary

David Cairns
Vice President

Don Pinkham
Treasurer/Membership Chmn.

Ora Kay Peterson
Executive Director

cc: State Historic Preservation Office
Bill Tweed

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